

OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY

OPERATED BY

UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION
NUCLEAR DIVISION



POST OFFICE BOX Y
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37830

January 9, 1969

12/29 Nature

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Dept. of Genetics
Stanford University School of Medicine
Stanford Medical Center
Palo Alto, California 94304

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

First I would like to tell you how much I appreciate the nice things you have been writing about the TMV-poly A work. I have delayed writing in the hopes of having cloned a line inducing only one poly-lysine; it looks good but is not clear yet.

In view of your interest of quite a number of years ago, and years before anyone else, I thought you would be interested in this tiny squib of a paper that recently came out in Nature. Theoretically it would appear the way to take advantage of the deletions in cancer that you suggested existed in their therapy. Actually one should be able to treat a whole host of diseases using this system without the worry of the toxicity of antimetabolites, etc. Arteriosclerosis is a prime example. Jokingly, after Jackie Kennedy's recent marriage, it occurred to us that maybe Onassis should be dialyzed against a young bull! About this time, it was in the paper that someone had successfully treated a terminal hepatitis by cross transfusion with a baboon. One wonders if dialysis against the baboon would not have worked as well without the danger entailed.

Hopefully, before long we are going to be able to induce something of greater significance than poly-lysine, using TMV-RNA as the carrier. Polio RNA looks like a good system to use in parallel.

Sincerely yours,


Stanfield Rogers
Biology Division

SR:mrl
Enclosure

P.S. I talked with F.C. Steward about your suggestion of inducing poly-lysine in plants as a nutritional supplement. He is quite interested and as soon as we get a good cloned line we will put it out in his carrot system.